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WASHINGTON AND THE WORLD'S
FAIR.

A bill has been introduced into both
Houses of Congress, at the instance of
the national board of promotion, look-
ing to Washington as the site where the
World's Fair of 1892 is to be held.
The proposition to this effect contained
in the bill has received the approval of
our own Legislature in a formal resolu-
tion, which has been endorsed by the
concurring sentiment of all of our citi-
zens.

It is obviously to the interest and ad-
vantage of this State that Washington
should be selected for the purpose men-
tioned, but there are several reasons why
the public opinion of the nation at
large should prefer that that city
should be chosen as the site of the forth-
coming exhibition. The principal one of
these reasons is that Washington is the
capital of the Union, the seat of govern-
ment, and the point to which all
foreign representatives are accredited.
The Fair being an enterprise of national
concern and under national super-
vision, and requiring a national ap-
propriation to inaugurate it and to carry
it to completion, it seems to be most ap-
propriate that it should be held on the
spot where are centered all the national
interests and functions.

The District of Columbia has already
taken steps to issue bonds to the amount
of \$15,000,000 to meet the whole ex-
pense to be entailed by the Fair, as
against \$2,000,000 guaranteed by the
city of New York if awarded the prize
sought by itself, Chicago and St. Louis,
as well as Washington. The
decision as to the final selection of a
site will, under the bill introduced into
Congress, be in the hands of directors
who have received their appointment
from the President. This places the
conduct of the enterprise entirely in
the control of the Government, which
should assume the whole cost of the Fair,
and therefore should exercise without
question the right of selecting the city
of Washington as its site.

St. Louis and Chicago are situated so
far to the west that they would be highly
inconvenient to fix upon either. New
York, on the other hand, the only city
which offers advantages that compare
with those of Washington, has so large
a floating population, even under ordi-
nary circumstances, that an enormous
addition to this population would over-
load the accommodations which its hotels
and private houses would have to offer.
Washington would be much more con-
venient to Western as well as Southern
visitors, as all those who would go
to New York in case the Fair were held
there would have to pass through the
former city on their way thither. It
also furnishes the most ample room for
temporary, but not the less comfortable,
return in its precincts, there being
many open spaces there upon which
hotels could be easily erected if found
to be necessary.

WANTED—A GOOD SCHOOL HISTORY.

The New Orleans States, in a recent
issue, compliments very highly the
speech of Mayor Elihu, on this city,
at the meeting of Confederate veterans
held in Washington Artillery Hall on
the evening of the 11th instant. The
main point of the Mayor's speech,
which particularly attracted the atten-
tion of the States, however, was where
he alluded to the slanderous histories
published in the North, which have
been introduced in the public schools of
the South. Three labels on history all,
either directly or indirectly, convey
the impression that the fathers of the
children, who are being "instructed"
by them, were traitors to their country,
and the Hon. Jefferson Davis, the Pres-
ident of the Southern Confederacy in the
war between the States, was an arch-
deceiver and rebel.

A few months ago, when asked his
opinion as to the best Southern school
history of the United States, Mr. Davis
replied that "no such book had ever
been written." In making this remark
he did not allude particularly to the
treatment which the South receives at
the hand of the so-called school histo-
rians; but he meant that every school
history which is now current is full of
errors all through. "I always first
range every history sent to me," said
he, "by two things—the way it treats
the skirmish at Bunker Hill and the
battle of the Cowpens. They all men-
tion the first into a battle, and dis-
miss the latter into a skirmish. Then, as
a general rule, even if they seem fair
enough in discussing the late war, they
show woful ignorance about the causes
which, from the inception of the Fed-
eral Union, gradually led up to that
war."

In making this criticism, the distin-
guished Southern statesman and soldier
speaks of what he knew, for during his
memorable life of over three-quarters
of a century he was an active personal
participator in most of the great events
which mark the first ten decades of the
Union.

taught that the cause and principle to
which Jefferson Davis gave his life was
one that can never die while the Re-
public of the United States maintains
the manhood and liberties bequeathed to
it by the Fathers. It was very unfor-
tunate for the South that negro slavery
was the motive power which caused
that principle to be asserted in the late
war. But the principle is certain to
come up again in the near future in a
more favorable aspect, and then Mr.
Davis' name and memory will be vindi-
cated. In the mean time, who will
write such a history as is wanted?

INCORRIGIBLE SECTIONAL BLIN-
DNESS.

We have referred at some length to the
very notable address delivered by
Mr. Cleveland quite recently at a ban-
quet of prominent Boston merchants.
On the same distinguished occasion,
Mr. Grady, of Georgia, also spoke and
his remarks seem to have excited as much
favorable comment as those of the
Ex-President. Mr. Grady's speech was
confined in the main to a discussion
of the condition of the negro at the
South, and while he brought forward
no new facts of importance, he made a
very forcible and able presentation of
his subject.

To Southerners the interest of what
he said lay in his manner of saying it,
rather than in its substance, for they
were fully informed before of the gen-
eral facts which he stated. Who, among-
st us, for instance, believes that the
Southern people intend to re-enslave
the negro by indirect methods? Who is
not aware that his labor is voluntary,
and not compulsory? Who is not con-
scious of the fact that we are fur-
nishing him with the amplest edu-
cational facilities, and assisting him
in his churches and societies, and ex-
tending to him every chance of earning
a livelihood and improving his condi-
tion?

The Southern people also know that
the negro, so far from being dealt with
severely and harshly when he violates
the law, is only too often allowed to es-
cape even the mildest form of punish-
ment. This is the true explanation of
the fact mentioned by Mr. Grady, that
one negro in every 185 at the North is
in jail, but only one in every 446 at the
South. If the criminal procedure was
enforced as rigidly against the negro in
our communities as it is in Northern
communities, the proportion of convictions
would be the same.

One of the most discouraging features
in the present situation, with respect to
the negro, is the blind ignorance of the
Northern people to his real condition,
in spite of all the information which
they have received on the subject. How
many speeches resembling the recent
address of Mr. Grady have been deliv-
ered at the North in the last few years,
and yet when one such speech is made,
its facts, which have been stated and re-
peated until Southerners have grown
weary of them, are accepted by the
Northern people in a spirit of as much
surprise as if they had never heard of
these facts before. A new light seems
to break upon the local press, judging
by their comments, only to fade away
as soon as the chords of sectional feel-
ing are touched.

So far as the North is concerned the
position of the South is that of Stry-
plus rolling his stone up the hill only
to see it tumble down again to the bot-
tom. A thousand speeches as able and
convincing as the one delivered by Mr.
Grady would not make a sufficient im-
pression upon the public sentiment of
the Northern people to restrain them
permanently in their determination to
gratify their sectional animosities. The
negro problem will be exhaustively
discussed in Congress this winter, but
we venture to predict that the presen-
tation of the condition of the race by
Southern members, which alone will be
the accurate one, will not have the
slightest influence upon a single vote
that will be cast by the Republican
Representatives in that body.

THE CIVIL-SERVICE LAW AND THE
SOUTH.

The attention of the South has been
very little drawn to the civil-service
law, and public opinion may possibly
be unfavorably affected towards it by
the position of a Senator so well-known
as Governor Vance, who has introduced
a bill for its repeal. That such a posi-
tion should be taken by any sensible
citizen desiring the welfare of his coun-
try is a matter of surprise, but that it
should be taken by a true and ordi-
narily sagacious Southerner, knowing
the peculiar political conditions and
relations of his section, is altogether in-
comprehensible.

Aside from the policy of withdrav-
ing appointments to office as far as it
will be expedient or possible from the
corrupting influences of the political
arena, the civil service law is based
upon the idea that the most effective
test of the capacity of a subordinate
employee of the government to fulfill ef-
fectively his duties, is an examination
as to his general intelligence and his
knowledge of those subjects having a
direct bearing on the office to be filled.
The commission charged with the exe-
cution of the law, in its report, points
to "that test of tests, experience as
clearly showing that the offices in
which the merit system has been fairly
tried are precisely the offices in which
the best public work has been done."

The vast interests involved make it
a matter of vital importance that the
affairs of the government should be con-
ducted on business principles, and what
merchant or bank president would not
prefer the ordeal of examination in
choosing his clerks to a random selec-
tion from a mob of applicants endorsed
by a Congressman who would naturally
have the highest opinion of all his
constituents. What interest can 60,000
of people have in the appointment
of 100,000 officers, except that they
shall perform their duties faith-
fully and efficiently, and can this great
national over again, without being
trayed by its representatives, give its
allegiance to the robber doctrine, that
the victor belongs the spoils?

While it is undoubtedly true that in
many departments of the Government
service there are certain high officers
who should be identified with the pre-
vailing administration, and therefore
subject to change with the shifting
power of parties, there are at
least one hundred thousand em-
ployees whose positions are without
political, or any but moral responsi-

bility, and the operation of the civil
service law should be extended until it
embraces all these, instead of twenty-
eight thousand.

Now we hold that a system of per-
manent tenure of office, based on the
most infallible test of merit that can be
adopted, is far better than a scramble
of 28,000 men, often untrained and with-
out regular occupation, who, with
every change of administration, have
besieged their Congressmen for Federal
offices, and burden with their ignor-
ance and inexperience the several de-
partments of the government. We are
convinced that in time it will be far
better to extend this test of merit to the
humblest postoffice in the country, and
to avoid the hazard of subjecting the
most insignificant communities to the
risk even of four or five class post-
masters, like the two ignorant negroes
who have been imposed by Mr. Wana-
maker on two respectable communities
in Campbell county.

But we desire to call special atten-
tion to the bearing of the civil service
law on the South, and to the very ob-
jectionable position which Governor
Vance occupies on this question.

Why is it that we regard with special
apprehension the accession of the Re-
publican party to power? Is it alone
that we regard with dread the enact-
ment of such oppressive measures as the
proposed general election law, or is it
not equally that we fear the appoint-
ment of Federal officers in our midst,
from the highest officials down to de-
puty marshals and fourth-class postmas-
ters, who are to the last degree repug-
nant to our sense of decency and
justice. Is it possible that the most
bigoted Democrat can think that four
years of Democratic rule can compen-
sate for four years of Republican out-
rage, but will he not rather conclude
on reflection that the best system for the
South is one which will place Federal
appointments, as far as possible, beyond
the reach of Republican and partisan
malice, and on the true basis of fairly
tested merit, both intellectual and moral.

We cannot ignore the fact that with
its continued extension, the civil ser-
vice law will open more and more to
the men and women of the South a
field for honorable and steady employ-
ment, and it is almost incredible that
a statesman so true to his section as
Governor Vance can be so blind as to
wish to undo so much good already ac-
complished in this direction, and to
consign his own people to Republican
ostracism and helplessness, and unrelent-
ingly, only relieved by the prospect of Democratic triumph at some future day.

THE MEMORIAL OF THE PILOTS.

We have read with much interest a
communication signed "O. E. Edwards,
agent of Virginia Pilots Association,"
which appeared as an advertisement in
the Dispatch of yesterday. This article
is a combined assault upon the memorial
ists who were appointed by our Chamber
of Commerce to bring to the attention
of the General Assembly the obvious
character of our present pilot laws;
upon the city of Richmond, whose oc-
cupying commerce seems to arouse the
liveliest satisfaction in the breast of this
gentleman; and a presentation of the
supposed right of the pilots to levy
tribute upon our commerce to support
an organization which, as this indiscreet
spokesman admits, would die, because
the excuse for its existence has long
since ceased, but for the payment of
compulsory fees for services not desired
by the payer, nor rendered by the recipients.

As to the animadversions upon the
memorialists, we confidently assert
that the simple recital of their names
will reassure the most critical that these
gentlemen have no other object than
the prosperity of Virginia.

Who are these men whose memorial
Mr. O. E. Edwards, agent of the pilots,
reviews with such trenchant pen? Are
they men who live by a tax which Vir-
ginia allows them to levy upon private
citizens for supposed services which
are never rendered? Are they men
who stand in the way of her pro-
gress? We take it, they present at
least a creditable comparison with the
Pilots' Association in this respect, and
that their standing and services as Vir-
gians are such as to entitle any
memorial which they may present, to the
considerate attention of our Gen-
eral Assembly. Let us recount them.
J. Taylor Elyson, James B. Pace, Gen-
eral Joseph R. Anderson, Lewis Glaser,
John B. Parcell, James W. Allison,
Jackson Guy, Peter H. Mayo, A. S. Buf-
ford, G. L. Christian, N. V. Randolph,
Tazewell Elliot, Charles E. Wingo, and
Charles V. Meredith. They are men,
who, by their lives and services, are fit
representatives of the people, not alone
of Richmond, but the whole State of
Virginia.

As to the declivities of the com-
merce of this city, we can only say,
that when we remember that along
every other line of progress, our city
has outstripped all her competitors, and
is daily growing in wealth and power
her failure to build up, or even main-
tain her coastwise commerce, might
have been allowed to pass unnoticed by
this gentleman, when it is remembered
that it is his organization, and the
privilege which it possesses to lay trib-
ute upon our trade that has driven our
commerce from our shores.

With reference to the presentation
of the claims of his organization, and
his attempted refutation of the allega-
tions of the memorial of the committee
of our Chamber of Commerce, we de-
sire in all candor to thank the gentle-
man for his communication.

The people in this struggle need have
no fear, if only a discussion of the
question can be had on its merits, and
the members of the General Assembly
fully informed as to all the facts. All
that the advocates of the proposed
change need desire is that the facts
with reference to the present law may
be brought to light.

We understand that when the bill,
similar in purpose to the one now be-
fore the Legislature was under consid-
eration two years ago, a friend of the
pilots presented their case in a speech
of nearly two hours length. The speech
convinced the body of the propriety of
the proposed change, and it was adopted
by almost a unanimous vote.

able, very tersely and fittingly expressed
the whole argument.
Said he: The objection to the aboli-
tion of the present compulsory pilot
laws reminds me of the proposition
once submitted in the famous club of
which Mr. Pickwick was chairman—
to abolish death, which seemed at
first to receive the hearty ap-
proval of the whole assembly, until
the wisdom of the proposition was seri-
ously questioned by the inquiry from
one of the sages: "If we abolish death,
what will become of the undertakers?"
Mr. Gordon's remark is still apropos.
Mr. Edwards' communication shall
receive further notice at our hands.

CREAM OF THE PRESS.

Current Topics Cited from the Leading
Papers of the Country.

(Washington Post.)
It appears that the bond given by Mr.
Leddon to the United States and ap-
proved by Speaker Carlisle, holds good
only to members of the Fifty-fifth Con-
gress. This bond probably secured under
similar bonds heretofore given under the
same law, and it is in these terms that
it has long prevailed in the Sergeant-
at-Arms' office. It expired on the 4th
of March last. The Sheriff bond in Lee-
don, which cuts no figure in the mat-
ter so far as members are concerned, is
probably of the same pattern and inval-
id by limitation.

The Sergeant-at-Arms has therefore
been conducting the business of his
office since the 4th of March without a
bond, when he should have been bond-
ed until his successor was duly elected
and qualified. But for this laxity the
House, as at present constituted, should
not and cannot justly be made the suf-
ferer.

The Week in Congress.
(Baltimore Herald.)

The present week will see a tempo-
rary adjournment of Congress for the
holidays, and members of both houses
flying homeward to spend the interim
with their families. The only thing
of consequence has been done beyond
organization, reception of bills and a
few routine matters of small import-
ance. Before adjournment both Cham-
bers will vote the salaries of their
members, and it is expected that the
majority of them will "over-vote" in
order to provide themselves with
"change" for Christmas.

But while little of nothing has been
done toward active legislation, the rou-
tine work of the session has proceeded
uninterrupted. The House has already
passed a number of bills, and the Senate
has already passed a number of bills.
The work of laying the track will be
completed to-morrow, and the rolling
stock has already been received.
The company has spent over
\$200,000 on wharves and warehouse
property at its Norfolk terminus, and
has laid down a line of track for the
rolling stock of the line in the harbor.
The rolling stock is entirely new,
and the locomotives are of the most
powerful horse power. The passenger
coaches were built by the Pullman Com-
pany and are very luxurious.

The Norfolk and Carolina Railroad
will commence running trains on
Monday next, and the first train of
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coaches were built by the Pullman Com-
pany and are very luxurious.

VIRGINIA ITEMS.
NEWS AND NOTES FROM ALL
OVER THE OLD DOMINION.

Published by the "Times" Correspond-
ents and State Exchange—Paragraphs
and Editorial Opinions Clipped,
Compiled and Condensed From Home Papers.

NORFOLK, Va., December 17.—[Spe-
cial.]—Miss Julia Frank, the twenty-
year-old daughter of Mr. Frank,
had a desperate quarrel with a bur-
lar in the house of her father, on East
Main street, at 1 o'clock yesterday
morning. Miss Frank was asleep in
her room when she was aroused by the
movements of what turned out to be a
well-dressed white man. She asked him
who he was and what he wanted, and
with an unusual courage jumped out of bed and caught hold
of him. The man made for the stairs,
but the young lady held on, and only
let go of him after he had tumbled
down the stairs and she had been badly
bruised. After picking himself together
the burglar jumped in the street
through a window and almost directly
into the arms of policeman Mitchell,
who had been attracted to the house by
the young lady's screams. The man
was taken up and gave his name as
Ben Johnson, and in the Police Court
this morning was sent on to the Corpora-
tion Court for trial.

The tug Argus and the United States
Steamship Company are conducting an in-
ter-city tug trip into Newport News
yesterday, which they had found thir-
ty-five miles westward of Hog Island light.
No signs whatever were seen of any
of the iceberg crew, and it is thought
all must have perished. The Argus has
been floating around for about ten days,
and being a very dangerous obstruction to
navigation the Dispatch was sent out
to blow her up. The tug boat led her
in tow, however, when the gun-boat
came up and will claim salvage on her
capture.

The relations between General Wil-
liam Mahone and Congressman Bowden
are said to be very much strained just
now, on account of both having candi-
dated in the field for the collectorship
of the Norfolk Railroad Company will be
held at the office of the Company, No. 1014
Main street, Richmond, Va., on Tuesday
next, December 19, at 12 o'clock.

Mr. B. T. POTTER, Secretary, de-
clined.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE,
RICHMOND, VA., DECEMBER 18, 1889.

NOTICE—A GENERAL MEETING
of the stockholders of the Richmond and
Norfolk Railroad Company will be held
at the office of the Company, No. 1014
Main street, Richmond, Va., on Tuesday
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